

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 /072 W
-----060006 271751Z /43

P 271730Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4528
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
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TAGS: PINT, BE
SUBJECT: BELGIAN COMMUNIST PARTY TAKES A HALF STEP
AWAY FROM MOSCOW

REF: BRUSSELS A-134, JUNE 29, 1977 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. THE BELGIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (BCP) APPROVED

A REPORT TO ITS CENTRAL COMMITTEE JANUARY 21 ON ITS PLACE IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT TODAY. EXTRACTS OF THE REPORT WERE MADE PUBLIC AND PUBLISHED IN THE PARTY DAILY JAN. 26. THE REPORT MOVES BCP SOMEWHAT AWAY FROM MOSCOW. END SUMMARY.

1. CLAUDE RENARD, YOUNG VICE PRESIDENT OF THE BCP, PRESENTED A LENGTHY REPORT TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE JAN. 21. EXTRACTS WERE PUBLISHED IN A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE PARTY DAILY, LE DRAPEAU ROUGE, ON JAN. 26. WE WILL REPORT ON THE FULL PUBLISHED TEXT AND COMMENT ON THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE BCP BY AIRGRAM. REGARDING BCP-SOVIET DIFFERENCES, RENARD'S REPORT SAID THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE BCP TO CARRY OUT ITS POLITICAL ACTIVITIES WITHOUT PROVIDING THE PARTY MEMBERS AND THE REST OF THE WORKING CLASS WITH THE BCP'S OPINION ON THE OBVIOUS LIMITS ON DEMOCRACY IN THE USSR AND OTHER "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES.

2. AS DESCRIBED IN RENARD'S REPORT, THESE BCP-SOVIET DIFFERENCES ARE FOURFOLD (BUT ALL FOCUS ON HUMAN RIGHTS):

(A) THERE IS A CONTINUING TENDENCY IN THE USSR TOWARDS CENTRALIZATION OF POWER WHICH GIVES THE BUREAUCRACY A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF AUTONOMY. THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OVER-BUREAUCRATIZATION RESULTS IN LIMITS ON SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY AS WELL AS ON INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AND CANNOT BE EXCUSED AS A STALINIST HERITAGE.

(B) THE NEED FOR INCREASED LIBERTIES IN THE USSR IS GROWING AND IS PARTICULARLY FELT AMONG INTELLECTUALS. A SMALL MINORITY OF THESE INTELLECTUALS HAVE REACTED AGAINST BUREAUCRATIC ABUSES, A PHENOMENON WHICH HAS RESULTED IN "DISSIDENCE." SUCH LIMITS ON DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS ARE SIMPLY INCONCEIVABLE IN BELGIUM FOR HISTORICAL AND SOCIO-POLITICAL REASONS.

(C) SENDING OPPOSITIONISTS TO PSYCHIATRIC ASYLUMS IS NOT A LIMITATION ON DEMOCRACY. IT IS AN UNDEFENSIBLE ABUSE.

(D) THE POLICE IN "CERTAIN COUNTRIES" APPEAR TO HAVE AUTONOMY AND EVEN EXTEND THEIR POWERS BEYOND THE LIMITS OF LAW. LIBERTY IS, HOWEVER, INDIVISIBLE AND THE NEED FOR LIBERTY EXISTS EVEN IN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. WITHOUT LIBERTY POLITICAL TROUBLES, WHICH ARE STILL MINOR THERE, WILL CONTINUE TO GROW. "WE

HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN THE CRUEL LESSONS OF 1956 AND 1968."

3. RENARD SINGLED OUT CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR SPECIFIC CRITICISM. HE NOTED THAT THE SITUATION THERE IN 1978 IS NO LONGER AS IT HAD BEEN IN 1968. HE PRAISED THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS MADE, BUT NOTED THAT 10 YEARS AFTER THE MILITARY INTERVENTION, CLOSED TRIALS AND TRIALS FOR CRIMES OF OPINION CONTINUED.

4. RENARD CONCLUDED WITH AN ANALYSIS OF THE LINKAGE MADE BY "IMPERIALISM" OF ANTI-SOVIETISM AND ANTI-

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-----060012 271750Z /43

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COMMUNISM. HE POSTULATED THAT THE WEST, PARTICULARLY
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THE U.S. AND THE FRG, USE THE FORMER TO ATTACK
COMMUNIST GAINS IN WESTERN EUROPE. OLSEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNISTS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE01692
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780041-0290
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780116/aaaaamxa.tel
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Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 97b670df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BRUSSELS A-134
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3703798
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELGIAN COMMUNIST PARTY TAKES A HALF STEP AWAY FROM MOSCOW
TAGS: PINT, BE, BCP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/97b670df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014